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The paper confines itself to experimental results, and makes no attempt at their interpretation as yet. It is of importance, however, to note that somewhat similar appearances have been demonstrated in the fatigue of the nerve cell, as worked out by the same method.

- (2) *I Cambiamenti Microscopici delle Cellule Nervose nella loro Attività funzionale e sotto l'Azione di Agenti Stimolanti e Distruttori.* GIAMBATTISTA VALENZA. Napoli, 1896. Pp. 54. Plates I and II, 22 colored Figs.

This paper will be found especially valuable as a *résumé* of all that has been observed by way of changes in nerve cells under physiological and pathological conditions. For his experiments with electrical stimulation the author used the electric lobe of *Torpedo marmorata* and *ocellata*, stimulating the surface directly. The current was obtained from four large Bunsen cells, the stimulation being obtained from the secondary of a "grande" Du Bois-Reymond coil. The position of the secondary coil, the strength of current, frequency of shocks are only indicated indefinitely, "alta tensione e grande frequenza," "media tensione e media frequenza," etc., which not only makes confirmation of his experiments impossible, but renders comparison of his results with those of others inexact. He obtains a shrinkage of the nucleus, with increase of chromatin toward the centre close to the electrodes, accompanied with irregularity of contour. Farther from the electrodes the nuclei become turgid with their chromatin arranged about the periphery. Valenza is unable to confirm any of the observations which claim to prove mitotic division of nerve cells, indications of division being confined to the ependyma, when they occur. For his destructions he used a red-hot iron, and as a result he obtains some peculiar pictures, fusion of nerve cells, fragmentation of nuclei which simulate mitotic figures, etc. In any such procedure, it is impossible to interpret the results. They may be phenomena of simple steam explosion, heat coagulation, interference with nutrition, poisoning with decomposition products, etc., etc., and certainly throw light only upon similar procedures of other experimenters, and none on the normal or pathological processes which go on in nerve cells. Figure 19 shows two nerve cells from an animal killed by injection of strychnine. In one of the cells the nucleolus is situated in the centre of the nucleus. In the other the drawing and text indicate that it has migrated out into the protoplasm. I have observed many such in my own specimens, and in every case have been able to find evidence that they were simply dragged out of their normal position by the edge of the section knife. We miss throughout the paper any adequate consideration of normal control material.

C. F. H.

- (3) *La plasticité Morphologique des Neurones Cérébraux.* DR. JEAN DEMOOR. Arch. de Biologie, XIV, 1896.

In studying the general subject of the plasticity of nerve cells DeMoor has observed a diminution of chromatin in the cells of the cortical visual centres, as a result of thirty minutes' normal function, and, after some time, irregularities in the nucleus and general decrease in the size of the cell. But it is to his other experimental work that special interest attaches. Subcutaneous injection of morphine in dogs has given moniliform swellings of the protoplasmic processes of the cortical cells, recalling those described by Berkley and Andriezen for chronic alcoholism. Even the axis